

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W
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P 241216Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3468

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 638

EXDIS

NOFORN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO - POSSIBLE LOCATION REPORT

1. EXTREMELY RELIABLE SOURCE (X) WAS CONTACTED WEDNESDAY BY FIREND (Y) AND FREQUENT SOURCE OF ACCURATE INFORMATION ON LOCAL EVENTS ASKING IF HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONTACTING TWO KIDNAPPED AMERICANS. Y STATED THAT ON JULY 17 CISCO TWO PASSED THROUGH VILLAGE OF ADI HIRET, IN GUHEHIA SUB-PROVINCE OF SERAE PROVINCE (WHICH IS SOUTH AND WEST OF ASMARA). Y CLAIMED THAT AMERICANS WERE HELD CAPTIVE BY ELF UNIT COMMANDED BY ABDELKADIR ROMODAN (UNKNOWN TO CONGEN). IT IS UNCLEAR FROM Y'S REPORT WHETHER ELF UNIT WAS IN MOVEMENT OR WAS BASED IN ADI HIRET AREA.

2. Y REPORTED THAT IF ONE WANTED TO LEARN MORE OF CISCO TWO, ONE SHOULD CONTACT GEORGE ZEMUI, SUB-DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF GUHEHIA. Y SUGGESTED THAT BEST ROUTE BY WHICH TO CONTACT GEORGE ZEMUI WOULD BE THROUGH HIS BROTHER BERHANE ZEMUI WHO IS EMPLOYED BY DOD-CONTRACTOR PACIFIC ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS AS MEMBER OF THEIR FIRE BRIGADE IN ASMARA.

3. Y DID NOT MENTION FOUR ETHIOPIANS ABDUCTED WITH THE
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AMERICANS. Y DID SAY THAT MOTIVE FOR KIDNAPPING WAS TO

"INTERROGATE" AMERICANS.

4. X STATES THAT Y HAS BEEN RELIABLE REPORTER IN PAST AND THAT AS Y WAS FORMER SUB-DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR IN SEREA PROVINCE, AS SUCH IS INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH TERRAIN AND PERSONALITIES IN AREA. X BELIEVES THAT Y'S MOTIVATIONS FOR FORWARDING THIS INFORMATION TO X (WHO HAS KNOWN LINKS TO CONGEN) IS BE PLAYER IN CENTER OF "ACTION," AND THAT Y HAS NO DESIRE FOR MATERIAL REWARD. X STATES WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT Y IS NOT REPEAT NOT ACTING AS OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR ELF.

5. CONGEN VIEWS INFORMATION AS INTRIGUING BUT INCOMPLETE, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) ALLEGED SIGHTING IS WEEK OLD; (2) THERE IS CONTRADICTION BETWEEN STATEMENT OF ONE KIDNAPPER IN IDENTIFYING HIS GROUP AS PLF AND THIS REPORT THAT AMERICANS IN HANDS OF ELF; AND (3) MOTIVATIONS OF Y UNCLEAR. NONETHELESS, CONGEN INCLINED, WITH DEPARTMENT APPROVAL, TO OBTAIN, IN LOW-KEY APPROACH, WHATEVER ADDITIONAL DETAILS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM Y TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS GENUINE POSSIBILITY EITHER OF OBTAINING FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF CISCO TWO OR OF CONTACTING ACTUAL ABDUCTORS CONCERNING RELEASE. ONLY IF ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM Y CONVINCE US OF AUTHENTICITY OF REPORT WOULD WE BE PREPARED TO CONTACT BERHANE ZEMUI.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEES MUST REPEAT MUST NOT REVEAL THIS INFORMATION TO EPMG, TO FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES OR TO PRESS OR EVEN TO DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES IF WE ARE TO AVOID RAISING HOPES AND GENERATING UNDESIRABLE OUTSIDE PRESSURES AND/OR ACTIONS. COMMENTS AND APPROVAL FOR FURTHER APPROACH REQUESTED FROM DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY ADDIS.
FOR ADDIS: REQUEST EMBASSY OBTAIN COORDINATES OF ADI HIRET.
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Message Attributes

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